

GemStar Russet/A9014-2

- **Fresh & Processing Markets**
- **Excellent Appearance**
- **High U.S. No. 1 yields**
- **Fry Color**
- **Cold Sweetening Resistant**
- **Tolerant to water stress**
- **Gem Russet x A8341-5**

DISEASE

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Verticillium | mod resistant |
| Scab | resistant |
| PVY | susceptible |
| PVX | resistant |
| Net Necrosis | mod resistant |
| Dry Rot | susceptible |
| Soft Rot | resistant |
| Corky Ringspot | mod resistant |

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Released in 2004, *GemStar Russet* is a dual-purpose variety suitable for processing and fresh-pack usage. It has high U.S. No. 1 yields with very attractive tubers having few external defects and higher concentrations of Vitamin C and protein than other potato cultivars. *GemStar Russet* is cold-sweetening resistant making it exceptional for use in processing. It is resistant to PVX, common and powdery scab, and soft rot, and has moderate resistance to Verticillium wilt, net necrosis, and corky ringspot. *GemStar Russet* is notable for its tolerance to water stress. It is very susceptible to PVY and dry rot, and late-season hollow heart can be problematic as well. A release article for *GemStar Russet* was published in the American Journal of Potato Research in 2006, volume 83.

Management

Seed & Planting:

GemStar Russet has relatively few, apically positioned eyes and therefore it is important to avoid using large seed tubers to prevent blind seed pieces. Dry rot potential should be determined on all seed and an effective fungicide should be used when appropriate. Optimal plant spacing is 8-11 inches and seed should be planted at or near optimal soil temperatures to minimize soft rot problems.

Fertility:

Maximum yields have been obtained with 180 to 200 lb of total N/acre in southeast Idaho, which is about 75-85% of the amount required for Russet Burbank. About 1/3 of the seasonal N should be applied at or prior to planting with the remainder applied during tuber bulking. Petiole nitrate concentrations are similar to those for Russet Burbank.

Irrigation:

GemStar Russet is very drought tolerant and produces good yields with 20-25% less water than Russet Burbank. Closer plant spacing and a reduction in water during the last 3-4 weeks of the growing season can help to minimize hollow heart.

Weaknesses:

- Hollow Heart
- Very susceptible to PVY and symptoms are very difficult to read visually. May jeopardize other seed lots if infected with PVY.

Other Notes:

GemStar Russet is resistant to Metribuzin at normal application rates.



Steve James

The information contained within this flyer was supplied by researchers of the Northwest Potato Variety Development Program and their collaborators.